

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, UR

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF REP LIST 18

REF: STATE 183774, MOSCOW 11565, MOSCOW 11687

1. SUMMARY: I HANDED KORNIYENKO REP LIST 18 ON AUGUST 5, NOTING THAT ANNIVERSARY OF FINAL ACT MADE IT APPROPRIATE TIME TO DO SO AND STRESSING THAT THIS WAS TIGHTER, MORE ACCURATE LIST THAN ITS PREVIOUS COUNTERPARTS. KORNIYENKO MADE STANDARD COMMENT THAT NOT REP LISTS, BUT APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT PERMISSION BY SOVIET CITIZENS, ARE BASIS FOR SOVIET DECISIONS. HE ALSO STATED THAT SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE READY FOR BILATERAL CONSULAR TALKS NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO MORNING AUGUST 5 TO HAND HIM REP LIST 18. IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, I STATED THAT NOW IS APPROPRIATE TIME TO SUBMIT NEW LIST, SINCE IT IS FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE, FINAL ACT OF WHICH CALLS FOR RESOLUTION OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES IN POSITIVE SPIRIT.

3. NOTING THAT CASES OF 34 FAMILIES CONSISTING OF 94 INDIVIDUALS FROM REP LIST 17 HAD BEEN FAVORABLY RESOLVED, I EXPRESSED HOPE FOR A BETTER RECORD ON REP LIST 18. KORNIYENKO REMARKED THAT MY FIGURES WERE TOO LOW, THAT ACTUALLY ABOUT 60 FAMILIES FROM THAT LIST WITH MORE THAN 200 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION TO US, BUT HE NOTED POSSIBILITY THAT NOT ALL WHO
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RECEIVED PERMISSION ACTUALLY TRAVELLED. HE ADDED THAT ABOUT

20 PERCENT OF THE CASES ON REP LIST 17 HAD NEVER APPLIED FOR EXIT PERMISSION. IN RESPONSE I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT REP LIST 17, DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO COMPILE ACCURATE LIST, WAS DEFECTIVE IN THAT IT DEVELOPED THAT SOME ON THE LIST HAD ALREADY LEFT THE USSR, OTHERS DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE. (I STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD NOT EXPLAIN DISCREPANCY BETWEEN US AND SOVIET FIGURES ON CASES RESOLVED SINCE REP LIST 17, A MATTER WHICH COULD BE SETTLED BY COMPARISON OF RESPECTIVE LISTS).

4. I EMPHASIZED THAT BY CONTRAST WITH PREVIOUS LIST, REP LIST 18 COMPILATION IS DISTINGUISHED BY MAJOR EFFORT FOR MORE ACCURACY, RESULTING IN A CONSIDERABLY SMALLER LIST, COMPRISING ONLY 114 FAMILIES AND 317 INDIVIDUALS, ALL ACTIVE CASES AND SOME OF VERY LONG STANDING, INCLUDING ELEVEN DUAL NATIONAL CASES. TO MY COMMENT RE MCCLELLAN CASE THAT KORNIYENKO IS FAMILIAR WITH IT, HE REPLIED " AS WELL AS YOU ARE." I REMINDED HIM THAT SECRETARY, LIKEWISE FAMILIAR WITH CASE, HAS ALSO RAISED IT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST THAT WHEN REPLIST CASES ARE REFUSED, WE BE INFORMED OF REASONS, KORNIYENKO STATED SOVIET SIDE HAS NO OBLIGATION TO EXPLAIN WHY VISAS ARE REFUSED OR EXIT PERMISSION DENIED, ASSERTING THAT US DOES NOT SPELL OUT REASONS FOR VISA REFUSALS. I REPLIED THAT US NORMALLY DOES EXPLAIN REFUSALS, ALTHOUGH SOVIET SIDE MAY NOT ALWAYS FIND THEM SATISFACTORY. AT MY SUGGESTION THAT WE TRY TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF EXPLAINING REFUSALS DURING FORTHCOMING CONSULAR REVIEW, KORNIYENKO STATED SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE READY TO BEGIN TALKS "NEXT WEEK."

6. FINALLY, I POINTED OUT THAT US CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC ARE NATURALLY INTERESTED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL ACT AND FAVORABLE ACT ON REPLIST 18 WOULD BE ACTIVELY APPRECIATED.

7. KORNIYENKO'S REPLY TO MY DEMARCHE OPENED BY SEIZING ON MY REMARK THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROGRESS ON REP LIST 17. HE FOLLOWED THIS WITH STANDARD COMMENT THAT REP LIST WOULD SERVE AS REFERENCE ONLY, NOT AS BASIS FOR DECISION. SOLE BASIS ON WHICH DECISIONS MADE ARE EXIT VISA APPLICATIONS BY SOVIET CITIZENS AND NOT BY UNRECIPROCATED DESIRES OF AMERICAN RELATIVES. I RESPONDED BY STRESSING THAT ALL SOVIET FAMILIES LISTED ON REP LIST

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18 HAVE APPLIED.

8. COMMENT: KORNIYENKO'S RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATION WAS STANDARD, RELATIVELY MILD FOR HIM, AND PERHAPS ABOUT WHAT WOULD BE EXPECTED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
STOESSEL

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